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BULLETIN

OF THE

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Issued in
JANUARY, MARCH, MAY, JULY, SEPTEMBER AND
NOVEMBER

There is no subscription price, and the Bulletin is sent only to members of the Association.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

President—Mary W. Plummer, Library School, New York Public Library, N. Y. City.
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Secretary—George B. Utley, 78 E. Washington St., Chicago.
Treasurer—Carl B. Roden, Public Library, Chicago.
Executive offices—78 E. Washington Street, Chicago, Ill.

CONFERENCE FOR 1916

The Thirty-eighth Annual Conference of the American Library Association will be held at Asbury Park, New Jersey, June 26 to July 1. The reasons actuating the Executive Board in reaching this decision are clearly set forth in the "Communication" of the President, printed in this issue of the Bulletin.

The March Bulletin and the library periodicals will contain extended information as to travel arrangements, hotels, program, entertainment features, etc.

Asbury Park is abundantly able to care for us comfortably and its proximity to large library centers will probably make it one of the largest conferences in the history of the Association.

The meeting of the National Education Association in New York the week following our own conference presents an exceptional opportunity for attending both gatherings. The secretary of the N. E. A. has, at our request, promised to furnish a statement regarding the plans and program of that association for our March Bulletin.

Attend the Asbury Park conference if you can.

A COMMUNICATION

Inasmuch as the Executive Board of the American Library Association has voted to hold the next conference at Asbury Park, New Jersey, it may be advisable to explain its action in view of the fact that many middle-western librarians expected and wished a middle-western meeting.

Various localities in the middle-west were canvassed, suggestions being offered by middle-western members of the Board. Aside from the cities, none of these seemed available except Mackinac. A rather general opposition to another Mackinac conference developed, and one of the middle-western library associations itself preferred Asbury Park. No suggestions of suitable places came from those members outside the Board who advocated a middle-western conference, and, as to the cities, there was a general feeling that a city meeting is a last resort, owing to the many distractions, the noise and confusion, the impossibility of having hotels for the exclusive use of the associations, etc., and the difficulty of finding suitable meeting-rooms within a limited area.

It was decided that Asbury Park was more easily accessible than Mackinac, bringing members from Chicago and St. Louis without change, via Philadelphia, a concession being made by the railroad company on this point, so that travelers need not go via New York and be required to change trains there. The fact that the National Education Association expects to meet in New York the week beginning July 3 was another deciding consideration

since for years the American Library Association has been trying to effect a conjunction with the larger body, and this was the first available opportunity. The easier possibility of securing speakers near the centers of population than at Mackinac was an argument the program committee felt to be a weighty one, inasmuch as the success of a conference depends largely on the program.

The Board did feel, however, that a thorough canvass should be made another year of the whole middle-west, and that any member living in that section should feel entitled to take part in the search and to make known his findings to the Board. The essentials of a good meeting-place would seem to be

1. A suitable climate.
2. A hotel (or hotels near together) able to accommodate comfortably, at reasonable prices, at least a thousand persons.
3. Accessibility, i. e. with few if any changes of conveyance.
4. Auditoriums of varying sizes and good acoustic properties, removed from street noises.

Requirements 2 and 4 are not met by city conditions, but should be met at any resort considered by the Board. As will be seen, the problem is not an easy one to solve.

It was partly in view of this difficulty that an attempt was made this year to have the mid-winter council meetings at Chicago open ones, with prepared programs and a general invitation to members of the American Library Association.

The Secretary will soon be able to give out definite information concerning Asbury Park as a meeting-place, and it is hoped that the attractiveness and general suitability of the place may lead to a country-wide attendance June 26 to July 1.

MARY W. PLUMMER.
President

COLLECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS FOR HEADQUARTERS

We have occasional requests at A. L. A. headquarters for photographs of libraries and library work. These are generally needed either for (1) illustrating magazine and newspaper articles; or (2) exhibits at library or other educational meetings.

Will not all librarians who read this notice help us to form such a collection? (1) Send us one copy, preferably unmounted, of all available photographs illustrating exterior or interior of buildings, especially those containing considerable architectural merit, and also of all pictures illustrating various phases of library work, especially the newer and more unusual features, which would be particularly useful for illustrations to magazine articles. On the back of each picture write the name of the library and a brief but clear description of the photograph. (2) Place A. L. A. headquarters on your mailing list to receive a copy of all photographs you may have taken of your work or buildings in the future.

We had hoped to have such a collection as a result of the San Francisco exhibit, but most of the photographic material has been sent to China under the auspices of the Chinese Y. M. C. A. officials, to form an exhibition of American library methods to be shown in the various educational centers of that country.

FIRST CALL FOR PUBLICITY MATERIAL

For the work before it, the A. L. A. Publicity Committee should receive regularly copies of all library bulletins, booklists, reports, circulars, posters, programs, and other printed matter, issued by libraries, library associations and clubs, and library commissions. Suggestions and inquiries are welcomed. The committee hopes to make its work beneficial to all libraries.

Please help by putting the committee on your special mailing list for all such material. Address Mr. Willis Kerr, chairman A. L. A. Publicity Committee, Emporia, Kan.